

Meeting Time/Location: MWF 11:00-11:52 in Pafford 109

Instructor/Contact: Dr. Riker

Office hours: MWF 9:00-9:55, MW 3:30-5:00, and by appointment
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All email communication will be conducted from your official UWG email account. Check your email account on a regular basis and make sure that your mailbox does not become too full to accept messages.

Course Learning Outcomes

- identify deductive and inductive argumentation;
- distinguish fact and informed opinion from mere opinion in a variety of argumentative contexts;
- organize evidence and compose persuasive arguments, both orally and in writing;
- identify and distinguish formal and informal fallacies of reasoning;
- identify, develop, and analyze reasons in support of a conclusion.

These course-specific learning outcomes contribute to the departmental learning outcomes of the Philosophy Program by enabling students better to

- ask philosophical questions and differentiate their types;
- incorporate a philosophical position in oral and written communications;
- critically outline and analyze philosophical issues;
- exhibit critical thinking skills.

Required Texts

- Trudy Govier, *A Practical Study of Argument*, 7th ed. Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth, 2010.
- Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation*
- Several readings available on Course Den.

Course Requirements

- a) Two Tests (100 points each, 200 points total)
- b) Speeches (80 points total)
- c) Final speech paper (80 points total)
- d) Homework (40)
- e) Attendance/Participation (+/-)

a) Two In-Class Tests (100 points each, 200 points total)

Each test will cover roughly 1/2 of our course material. Each will consist of many types of questions.

b) Speeches (80 points total)

You must give three speeches—two small group speeches with peer evaluations and a persuasive speech.

Two Small Group Speeches (5 points each): Give two short speeches (3-4 minutes) to small groups of classmates (4-5 students). There are four requirements: (1) the speech itself; (2) Speech Evaluation Forms; (3) Self Evaluation Form; (4) a detailed outline or the text of your presentation. These forms are available on Course Den.

The purpose of these speeches is to practice public speaking, to work on technique (voice, posture, eye contact, etc.), and to build up to the formal speech. I will distribute detailed assignment sheets through Course Den. Topics will be discussed later.

Persuasive Speech (70 points): Give a speech to the class, in which you develop and present an argument on some issue related to the use of animals. Explain your argument to the class. Draw on the resources we read and discuss in class, and do outside research, if you find that helpful. Your speech should be 4-5 minutes long. When you finish your speech, you will spend 4-5 minutes answering questions posed by your audience (your instructor and classmates). There are two requirements for the speech: (1) the speech itself and (2) a detailed outline or the text of your presentation. A detailed assignment sheet will be distributed through Course Den. A sign-up sheet will be passed around in a few weeks.

c) Final Speech Paper (80 points)

Your final speech is the basis for this paper. Write an essay in which you develop and defend an argument for or against some use of animals. The text of the paper should be about 4 pages long, with a fifth page that contains your argument standardization. A detailed assignment sheet will be passed out later. Papers are due on April 27.

d) Homework (40 points)

Complete assigned problems and tasks before class. We will spend class time reviewing your work in most cases. I may call on you, or break you into groups, when we review assigned problems and tasks.

Turn in your homework when you arrive to class. Bring two copies of your homework if you want to keep a copy to correct and refer to in class. I will review and assess the one you turn in, but will not return it. After we discuss the homework in class, I will put an answer key on Course Den.

I will look at your homework to make sure that you have made a good faith effort to complete the assignment. Assignment grades are as follows: 3 points for a good effort, 2 or 1 points for a so-so effort, 0 points for an inadequate effort. Your overall assignment grade will reflect how much effort you put into the homework. You don't have to get all of the problems right to get full credit. You do have to make an honest effort to complete the assignments correctly.

Late homework assignments will not be accepted.

e) Attendance/Participation (+/-)

You are expected to come to all scheduled classes. You are required to come to class when other students are giving speeches. Otherwise, you are allowed to miss five days without penalty (excluding final speech days). Your sixth absence, and every absence after that, will cost you 10 points.

NOTE: Attendance is mandatory on Speech Days in April. Any absence during this period will cost you 10 points, even if you have fewer than five absences.

Come to class on time and prepared to interact. Read assigned material before class. Do not come to class late. Late arrivals are inconsiderate and disrupt class. If you arrive to class late too often, I will lower your final course grade.

I will make exceptions only in extraordinary situations. I will make exceptions for required UWG-sponsored events, only if all of your absences can be accounted for in this way.

Do not study material from other classes while this class is in session. While you are in this class, I expect your attention to be focused on it rather than on your other courses.

Students may be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes – but is not limited to – arriving late for class, allowing cell phones to ring, speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students, and using personal audio or visual devices. **Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance policy above.**

Exemplary attendance and participation can help you. Students who come to class prepared and regularly make contributions to class discussions may receive a slight boost to their final grade.

Final Grade Scale

A	400-360
B	359-320
C	319-280
D	279-240
F	239 or lower

Honors Conversions

Any student wishing to receive honors credit for this course must get the approval of the professor and complete all the necessary paperwork within the first two weeks of class. Honors forms will not be signed after this point. Possible honors conversion projects: presenting course paper to class; leading class through (part of) one day’s reading assignment; submitting course paper to a conference.

Cheating and Plagiarism

The Department of English and Philosophy defines plagiarism as “taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are expressed in electronic, print, and verbal sources.” The Department expects that students will accurately credit sources in all assignments. It is equally dishonest to make up sources or facts. Cheating (including plagiarism) is grounds for failing an assignment and sometimes the course.

Special Needs

Students who have a disability that requires course adaptations or accommodations should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services to discuss their specific needs and schedule an appointment with me during office hours.

Course Schedule

Abbreviations: PSA = Practical Study of Argument (Govier)
 AL = Animal Liberation (Singer)
 CD = Course Den

Date	Topic	Reading assignment	Homework
Jan 9	Introductions		
Jan 11	What is an argument?	PSA 1-9, AL 25-35	
Jan 13	What is an argument?	AL 35-45	PSA 11-2 (1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14)
Jan 16	MLK Day!		
Jan 18	What is not an argument?	PSA 9-17, AL 45-55	
Jan 20	Identifying arguments	AL 55-65	PSA 17-8 (2, 6, 8, 9) Small Group Speech 1
Jan 23	Argument structure	PSA 22-30, AL 65-75	
Jan 25	Argument structure	PSA 34-46, 51-2, AL 75-85	
Jan 27	Conductive arguments	PSA 352-7, 359-66, AL 85-95	Small Group Speech 2
Jan 30	Conductive arguments		PSA 357-8 (2, 4, 6, 7) PSA 366-7 (1, 3, 4, 5, 8)
Feb 1	An argument for vegetarianism	Singer Vegetarianism CD Broiler Chicken Video	Speech Comparison
Feb 3	All animals are equal	Singer, AL 1-23, Chapter 1	Questions on Singer
Feb 6	All animals are equal	Singer, AL 1-23, Chapter 1	
Feb 8	Premises: what to accept	PSA 116-130	

Feb 10	Premises: when to worry	PSA 131-135	PSA 137-8 (1, 2, 4, 9)
Feb 13	Deduction, Induction and Analogy	PSA 87-94.	
Feb 15	ARG Conditions	PSA 94-113.	
Feb 17	Why animals have rights	Regan CD	Questions on Regan
Feb 20	Catch Up/Review		
Feb 22	Test 1		
Feb 24	Why animals do not have rights	Cohen CD	Questions on Cohen
Feb 27	Relevance	PSA 148-157	
Feb 29	Relevance	PSA 157-174	PSA 167-8 (5, 7, 8, 11, 13)
Mar 2	Philosophy Conference – class canceled <i>Last day to drop with grade of W</i>		
Mar 5	Religion and animal welfare	Rollin CD	Questions on Rollin
Mar 7	Deductive Arguments	Reading on CD	
Mar 9	Deductive Arguments		Worksheet
Mar 12	Inductive arguments	PSA 255-265	
Mar 14	Inductive arguments		PSA 265 (2, 4) PSA 266 (1, 3)
Mar 16	Inductive fallacies	PSA 275-80	
Mar 19-23	Spring Break		
Mar 26	Meanings of “cause”	PSA 286-88	PSA 293-4 (2, 3, 7, 8, 9)
Mar 28	Cause and correlation	PSA 288-293	Worksheet
Mar 30	Inference to the best explanation	PSA 298-303	
Apr 2	Errors in causal reasoning	PSA 304-310	PSA 311-3 (4, 5, 7, 10)
Apr 4	Analogies	PSA 318-327	

Apr 6	Analogies		Worksheet
Apr 9	Bad analogies	PSA 339-345	
Apr 11	Review/Catch Up		
Apr 13	Test 2		
Apr 16	Speeches 1-4	Attendance mandatory	
Apr 18	Speeches 5-8	Attendance mandatory	
Apr 20	Speeches 9-12	Attendance mandatory	
Apr 23	Speeches 13-16	Attendance mandatory	
Apr 25	Speeches 17-20	Attendance mandatory	
Apr 27 (11:00-1:30)	Speeches 21-30	Attendance mandatory	